



eYogi Gurukul

Navaratri Stories: Day 7

Kalaratri

The seventh day of Navratri is dedicated to Goddess Kalaratri, the seventh form of Durga.

Two demons named Shumbh and Nishumbh, who had a brother named Namuchi who was killed by Indra. Shumbh and Nishumbh were enraged and decided to attack the Gods in order to avenge him. Demons called Chanda, Munda and Raktabeej, (who were messengers and friends of Mahishasura before Kaytayani defeated him), had joined Shumbh and Nishumbh. Together, they attacked the Gods and took over the three worlds. The Gods prayed to Goddess Shakti for help, so she transformed into Goddess Kaushiki, and invited Shumbh and Nishumbh to a battle. They brought a mob of demons with them, but most of them were slain by Kaushiki's angry glare, but others like Chanda, Munda and Raktabeej were more powerful. To help her fight all the demons, she created another Goddess, Goddess Kali or Kaalaratri. Kaalaratri fought ruthlessly, and



killed the other more powerful demons easily, but Chanda and Munda had fled the battlefield. Kaalaratri went after the two, cut off their heads and wore their heads as a head dress, which came to be known as Chamunda. She then went on and fought the other demons, whilst Kaushiki battled Raktabeej, who had a power. Every time he bled, and a drop of blood touched the ground, a demon like Raktabeej arose once again. Raktabeej proved quite troublesome, so she called Kaalaratri to help fight him. Whenever she struck Raktabeej, Kaalaratri drank his blood without letting it fall to the ground. They defeated eventually Raktabeej, Shumbh and Nishumbh, and saved the Gods.